From: Morning Consult
To: lmartin@bakersfieldpd.us
Subject: Morning Consult Tech: Week in Review & What"s Ahead
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By Sam Sabin

Week in Review

Cybersecurity and privacy

- The Federal Bureau of Investigation and Immigration and Customs Enforcement's dependence on state driver's license databases has grown into the bedrock of their surveillance infrastructure , according to thousands of facial-recognition requests, internal documents and emails over the past five years obtained through a public records request submitted by Georgetown Law researchers. The documents show that databases are

routinely used to locate suspects in low-level crimes, and searches are authorized with no more than an email from a federal agent to a local official, the records show.

- Marriott International Inc. is facing a 99 million pound ($123 million) fine from regulators in the United Kingdom for a data breach of its Starwood reservation database that exposed the information of up to 383 million guests, including millions of unencrypted passport numbers and credit card numbers. An investigation conducted by the U.K.'s Information Commissioner's Office concluded that Marriott "failed to undertake sufficient due diligence" when it acquired the Starwood properties, while Marriott said it will contest the fine and "has been cooperating with the ICO throughout its investigation" regarding the hack.

- Two Democratic House aides familiar with ongoing discussions said the House Energy and Commerce Committee is targeting the end of September or early October to introduce its own version of a federal data privacy bill, with plans for the consumer protection subcommittee chaired by Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-Ill.) to head up the effort. Discussions for what to include in the bill have started, and the subcommittee is weighing two potential hearings on privacy before the end of the year.

- Google confirmed in a blog post that contractors are listening to about 0.2 percent of the audio recordings collected by its virtual assistant to help improve the technology's understanding of different languages. The statement follows a report from Belgian broadcaster VRT NWS earlier this week that detailed how contractors for the Alphabet Inc. unit listen to some of the recordings after gaining access to more than 1,000 fragments of audio obtained from the program.

Social media

- During his social media summit at the White House, President Donald Trump called for additional scrutiny on the "terrible bias" of social media platforms and promised to bring major tech companies to Washington for a meeting after they were not invited to the summit. In a private portion of the event, Sen. Marsha Blackburn of Tennessee said she and her Republican colleagues have plans to form a task force to investigate the tech industry, including privacy issues.

- France's Senate approved a 3 percent tax on certain global tech companies, such as Facebook Inc., Amazon.com Inc. and Google, Thursday despite President Trump's decision to open an investigation into the plan's potential harm to American companies. The administration's investigation could result in tariffs or trade restrictions on French goods, but France's Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire dismissed the threat, saying that the country "decides its own tax rules, and this will continue to be the case."

- The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit in New York ruled that Trump cannot block critics from the Twitter Inc. account he regularly uses - upholding a ruling last year by a judge for the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York that said the president is in violation of the First Amendment by doing so. The Justice Department argued that the president could block followers he "does not wish to hear" on the basis that he was using his personal @realDonaldTrump account on a privately owned platform.

- Twitter rolled out its first official guidelines on what is considered "dehumanizing" speech with a ban on speech that is insulting to religious groups, specifically because such language can "lead to offline harm." The company spent nearly a year crafting the new rules, and Jerrel Peterson, Twitter's head of safety policy, said the platform intends to eventually expand the rules to "all protected categories."

- Instagram is planning to roll out two new features this year to combat bullying on the platform: a comment warning that will appear before a user posts a comment that the platform's artificial intelligence-powered tool detects as bullying, and a restriction tool that will allow users to review comments from accounts that bully them before appearing on their posts. Adam Mosseri, head of Instagram, said the new tools are a part of a "pivotal moment" for the company in its effort to "lead the industry in this fight" against bullying online.

Telecommunications and wireless

- Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said the administration will give licenses to companies looking to work with Huawei Technologies Co. in cases where "there is no threat to national security," following through on plans Trump announced last month to relax restrictions on the telecommunications company. Larry Kudlow, director of the White House National Economic

Council, said during a CNBC event today that the administration would open up the licensing requirements "a bit" for companies that sell to Huawei, such as chipmakers Intel Corp. and Qualcomm Inc.

- Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai proposed an order to ban malicious spoofing of caller identifications in text messages and international calls, or those who imitate a different phone number, which would formally implement a measure passed by Congress last year authorizing the agency to target such bad actors. The proposal, which the commission will vote on at its next meeting, would give the agency the power to bring enforcement actions against scammers outside of the United States.

- The FCC passed an order relaxing the requirements for broadcasters to air educational and informational children's programming by allowing shows to count if they're aired on a multicast channel, rather than the broadcaster's primary channel, and expanding by one hour the time period in which broadcasters must air such programming. The new rules, which are the first major update to the order in more than two decades, passed in a party-line vote, with both Democratic commissioners opposing the motion.

Antitrust

- Qualcomm officially filed a request to pause an antitrust ruling with the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals after U.S. District Judge Lucy Koh decided last week not to put a hold on her own ruling in a case brought by the Federal Trade Commission that would require the chipmaker to renegotiate its licensing agreements. Koh ruled that Qualcomm's agreements abused the company's power in the chip market to push out competitors, but Qualcomm argues that upholding the ruling during its appeal process would impact its talks with phone makers about chips for 5G.

What's Ahead

- The House and Senate are in session.

- House Judiciary's antitrust subcommittee will host its second hearing Tuesday on market power in the tech industry. Representatives from Apple Inc., Amazon.com Inc., Facebook Inc. and Google are reportedly expected to testify.
- Karan Bhatia, Google's vice president of public policy, will testify Tuesday at a hearing on censorship through search engines hosted by the Senate Judiciary's subcommittee on the Constitution.
- The FCC's next open commission meeting is Aug 1. Agenda items tentatively include consideration of Chairman Pai's new anti-spoofing proposal and a notice on creating a two-phase reverse auction framework for the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund.

Events Calendar (All Times Local)

07/12/2019

House Energy and Commerce's energy subcommittee's hearing on cyber threats to the grid	9:30 am

07/14/2019

Microsoft Inspire

07/15/2019

Fortune's Brainstorm Tech 2019	
Microsoft Inspire	
Automated Vehicles Symposium 2019	
CompTIA's panel on the Hill about federal privacy law	12:00 pm
Transformative Technology Summit	6:30 pm

07/16/2019

Fortune's Brainstorm Tech 2019	
Microsoft Inspire	
Automated Vehicles Symposium 2019	
Senate Banking Committee's hearing on Facebook's cryptocurrency	10:00 am
House Science Committee's hearing on the legacy of Apollo	10:00 am
Information Technology and Innovation Foundation's event on robotics	10:00 am
House Energy and Commerce's communications subcommittee's hearing on spectrum policy	10:30 am
FTC's workshop on third-party repair restrictions	12:30 pm
House Judiciary's antitrust subcommittee's second hearing in its antitrust investigation	2:00 pm
Senate Judiciary's Constitution subcommittee's hearing on Google and search engine censorship	2:30 pm
New America's "Paying for Our Privacy" panel discussion	3:00 pm

07/17/2019

Fortune's Brainstorm Tech 2019	
Microsoft Inspire	
Automated Vehicles Symposium 2019	
The Atlantic's "Building Opportunity for All" event in San Francisco	9:00 am
House Judiciary Committee's hearing with former Special Counsel Robert Mueller	9:00 am
Senate Special Committee on Aging's hearing on combatting robocall frauds	9:30 am
House Financial Services Committee's hearing on Facebook's cryptocurrency plans	10:00 am

Senate Judiciary's oversight hearing on the United States Copyright Office	2:30 pm
Senate Indian Affairs Committee's hearing on GAO's report about tribal access to spectrum	2:30 pm

07/18/2019

Microsoft Inspire	
Automated Vehicles Symposium 2019	
House Judiciary's intellectual property subcommittee's hearing on threats to the trademark system	9:00 am
Brookings Institution and the American Enterprise Institute's event on the role of technology in the US-China trade war	11:30 am
New America's "The Future of Free Expression Online in America" panel discussion event	12:00 pm

07/19/2019

FCC Communications Security, Reliability, and Interoperability Council's first meeting	1:00 pm

View full calendar

Understanding Gen Z: The Definitive Guide to the Next Generation

Based on nearly 1,000 survey interviews with 18-21 year-olds, Morning Consult's 'Understanding Gen Z' report digs into the values, habits, aspirations, politics, and concerns that are shaping Gen Z adults and the ways they differ from the generations that came before them.

Download the full report →

Morning Consult Tech Top Reads

1) House Lawmakers Target September, October for Data Privacy Bill, Aides Say
Sam Sabin, Morning Consult

2) Amazon reveals the truth on why it nixed New York and chose Virginia for its HQ2
Scott Cohn, CNBC

3) Pain meds and bathroom dashes: A Philly author's time working at an Amazon warehouse
Juliana Feliciano Reyes, The Philadelphia Inquirer

4) Twitter Backs Off Broad Limits on 'Dehumanizing' Speech
Kate Conger, The New York Times

5) How Automation Is Cutting Into Workers' Share of Economic Output
Geoff Colvin, Fortune

6) France approves digital tax on American tech giants, defying US trade threat
Elizabeth Schulze, CNBC

7) FBI, ICE find state driver's license photos are a gold mine for facial-recognition searches
Drew Harwell, The Washington Post

8) Ajit Pai has a new proposal to go after international robocallers
Makena Kelly, The Verge

9) T-Mobile-Sprint Talks Slow Over Dish Ownership
Drew FitzGerald and Brent Kendall, The Wall Street Journal

10) Trump accuses social media companies of 'terrible bias' at White House summit decried by critics
Tony Romm, The Washington Post

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